

Amendments to the Claims

Kindly enter the following amendments to the claims:

Claims 1-5 (cancelled)

Claim 6 (previously cancelled)

Claims 7-9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (new): A support arrangement for a semi-membrane tank wall comprising:

an array of support members disposed adjacent to the tank wall;

a first plurality of support assemblies connecting the support members to the tank wall,
each support assembly of said first plurality of support assemblies comprising:

a first component affixed to the tank wall;

a second component member affixed to the support member;

a first support structure connecting the first and second components and
permitting relative sliding motion between the first support structure and second
component in a first direction;

wherein the first support structure includes a groove and the first
component includes a portion received in the groove of the first support structure
permitting sliding motion of the first component in a second direction
substantially orthogonal to the first direction permitted between the first support
structure and the second component and the second component includes a bracket
arranged to receive a portion of the first support structure in sliding relation; and

a second plurality of support assemblies connecting the support members to the tank wall,
each support assembly of said first plurality of support assemblies providing support in at least
one of the first and second directions.

Claim 11 (new): The support arrangement according to claim 10, wherein the second plurality of support assemblies provides support in the vertical direction.

Claim 12 (new): The support arrangement according to claim 11, wherein each support assembly of the second plurality comprises a third component affixed to the tank wall and a second support structure affixed to the support member and permits relative sliding motion between the third component and the second support structure in the substantially horizontal direction.

Claim 13 (new): The support arrangement according to claim 11, wherein each support assembly of the second plurality comprises a third component affixed to the support member and a second support structure affixed to the tank wall and permits relative sliding motion between the third component and the second support structure in the substantially horizontal direction.

Claim 14 (new): The support arrangement according to claim 10, wherein the adjacent tank wall includes an array of stiffeners to which the first components of the support assemblies are affixed.

Claim 15 (new): The support arrangement according to claim 10, wherein the first support structure comprises a load-bearing component made of thermally insulating material.

Claim 16 (new): The support arrangement according to claim 10, wherein the second component substantially encloses the portion of the first support structure.

Claim 17 (new): The support arrangement according to claim 10, wherein the tank wall is oriented in a vertical plane and the first plurality of support assemblies permits relative sliding motion between the support members and the vertical tank wall in substantially the horizontal and vertical directions.

Claim 18 (new): The support arrangement according to claim 17, wherein said first plurality of support assemblies are connected to the vertical tank wall at locations above and below a horizontal center line of the tank.

Claim 19 (new): The support arrangement according to claim 17, wherein said second plurality of support assemblies are substantially connected to the vertical tank wall along a horizontal center line of the tank.